

The Association of Government Accountants is an 18,000-member professional organization devoted to meeting the professional development, education, networking and certification needs of its members. AGA represents government financial managers working in local, state and federal governments as well as the private sector and academia. The Association seeks to advance government accountability at all levels of government through its Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, which has recognized more than 13,000 individuals for their unique skills and experience. To learn more about the Association, its many programs or any of its 90 chapters, visit us online at [www.agacgfm.org](http://www.agacgfm.org).



Advancing  
Government  
Accountability

Association  
of Government  
Accountants

P.O. Box 536  
Trenton, NJ 08604

# "THE CHANGING CULTURE OF NEW JERSEY GOVERNMENT"

Friday, October 29, 2010  
The Conference Center at Mercer  
Mercer County Community College



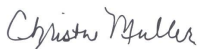
## Chapter President's Message

As the end of Governor Christie's first year in office approaches, the State of New Jersey has seen an enormous amount of change in a short period. As funding is reduced or eliminated, agencies have been forced to review their operations and develop efficiencies to help cut costs. State, county and local government employees alike are continuously adapting as uncertainties regarding the future continue to be at the forefront.

In keeping with our mission to be a leading advocate for improving the quality and effectiveness of government fiscal management as well as providing our members with valuable CPEs, the AGA Trenton Chapter presents our 2010 Fall Seminar, ***The Changing Culture of NJ Government.*** This year's Co-Chairs, Margarita Stanislavskaya and Guy Tassi, have produced a stellar line-up of speakers who will be providing insight into how agencies are coping with the current fiscal climate and the effect new reforms and requirements are having on some of these agencies and their employees.

The day will include discussions from all levels of government, as officials from local government entities, including school districts, discuss the impact budget reductions have had on their organizations and the newly appointed Director of the Division of Taxation discusses the changing ways of tax audits. In addition, we will hear about purchasing best practices, get updated on the future of government accounting & auditing, including the future of pension accounting.

From the entire 2010 Fall Seminar Committee, we hope that you enjoy the program



Christine Muller  
President, Trenton Chapter

## TOPIC/SUBJECT SYNOPSES

### **Local Governments and School Districts in Fiscally Challenging Times**

This panel will discuss the challenges facing local governments and school districts over the next several years resulting from the recent 2.0% property tax cap legislation. The Governor's "Toolkit to Meet Today's Fiscal Challenges" will also be a topic of discussion.

### **Procurement – Best Practices**

Dorothy Donnelly will review the six principles that serve as best practices to guide state and local government entities in their efforts to competitively contract for services. Dorothy will discuss how the Office of the State Comptroller determined that there was a need for such principles after reviewing 40 procurements by various government units.

Joseph Valenti will discuss how current local procurement laws, regulations, and practices have addressed some of the applications of the six principles.

### **Seeing the New Jersey Division of Taxation Through New Eyes**

An update on the state of the NJ Division of Taxation by new Director, Michael Bryan. What a private sector perspective can bring to the Division. Hear about structural changes, audits, guidance, hiring and promotional challenges and trying to change how practitioners and taxpayers think about the Division.

### **Pensions Accounting and Financial Reporting – A Look Ahead**

This session will cover topics of discussion that the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has introduced in a Preliminary Views Document designed to set forth and seek comments on the GASB's current views on changes to pension accounting and financial reporting standards to better suit the users of the financial statements of a governmental entity.

### **Pension Reform**

Governor Christie has detailed legislation to bring solvency to a pension system that has a \$46 billion deficit. The proposed changes include scaling back benefits, suspending cost-of-living increases and increasing the retirement age. Fred Beaver, former Director of the NJ Division of Pensions and Benefits, will discuss the impact of the sweeping package of reform measures.

## PROGRAM

7:30am – 8:30am	<b>Registration/Breakfast</b>
8:30am – 8:45am	<b>Call to Order</b> <b>Pledge of Allegiance</b> <b>Opening Remarks and Introductions</b> Christine Muller, President, Trenton Chapter Margarita Stanislavskaya, Seminar Chair
8:45am – 9:15am	<b>Keynote Address</b> Brian Hughes, Mercer County Executive
9:20am – 10:35am	<b>Local Governments and School Districts in Fiscally Challenging Times</b> William Dressel, Executive Director, NJ State League of Municipalities John Donnadio, NJ Association of Counties Michael A. Vrancik, Director of Government Relations, NJ School Boards Association
10:35am – 10:45am	<b>BREAK</b>
10:45am – 11:45pm	<b>Procurement – Best Practices</b> Dorothy Donnelly, Director Procurement Division, Office of the State Comptroller Joseph Valenti, Former Bureau Chief, Div. of Local Government Services, Dept. of Community Affairs
11:45pm – 1:00pm	<b>LUNCH</b>
1:00pm – 1:30pm	<b>Luncheon Speaker</b> Lori Grifa, Commissioner, Department of Community Affairs
1:30pm – 2:20pm	<b>Seeing the New Jersey Division of Taxation Through New Eyes</b> Michael Bryan, Director, Division of Taxation
2:20pm – 3:20pm	<b>Pension Accounting and Financial Reporting – A Look Ahead</b> Jason Spiegel, Senior Manager, Audit, KPMG LLP John Megariotis, Deputy Director, Finance, Division of Pensions and Benefits
3:20pm – 3:30pm	<b>BREAK</b>
3:30pm – 4:20pm	<b>Pension Reform</b> Fred Beaver, Senior Vice President, Pension Services, Church Pension Group
4:20pm – 4:30pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <b>Seminar Evaluations and Awarding of CPEs</b>

### **TASK COLLECTION**

The Trenton Chapter will once again be collecting food items for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen at the Fall Seminar. Any food or monetary donation will be accepted and appreciated.

